The Logger's Bark
RADIO CLUB of TACOMA

DECEMBER 2022 VOLUME 19 ISSUE 12 ©Radio Club of Tacoma W7DK

FROM THE EDITOR!

Hello Again Members!

Well, 2022 has come to an end… Finally! It's been an interesting year, to say the least! Let's hope that 2023 is a bit better. We can always hope!

On the good side, the upper bands of 17, 15, 12 & 10 are showing great propagation these days, with 10 in particular being open almost every day now. Great times are ahead!

In club news, the awards banquet was very nice, good attendance at the Collins Grange hall. A very nice venue and located just a block or possibly two from the Pierce county library annex where we used to have our meetings. Thanks to Doug AB7DG for arranging this for the club.

Straight Key Night also went off splendidly! Going to report it in this issue because it spans both 2022 & 2023! A great time was had by all participants. The CW Bingo was particularly fun, emceed by Nick K7MO with the lovely assistant Anna K7ANA keeping Nick in line!

Pictures and stories begin on page sixteen in the "Mail Bag"!

Been an exciting month at the clubhouse, with not one, but two separate break in's one at the shed and the other at the garage. Only things taken were metals; these were specialized thieves. They broke into the garage and the PMT storage area probably expecting expensive stuff and all they found were old radios. Didn't take any of them. So it's now verified: old ham radios are only valuable to us and nobody else! Thank goodness...

73 Gary WG7X

Page 1: Editors report.

Page 2: Board of Directors meeting minutes. And emergency BOD meeting minutes.

Page 7: General Meeting minutes.

Page 15: Mail Bag

Page 19: Mighty "DK's! QSO report.

Page 20: Elmer Board.

Radio Club of Tacoma
Board of Directors Meeting Minutes
December 7th, 2022

Meeting called to order at 7:00 pm local time by President Mike W7XTZ

Officers and Directors Present

President: Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ

Vice President: Adam Barbera W2NCC

Secretary Mike: Drorbaugh W7MKE

Treasurer: Steve Dightman AF7YD

Board Bruce Hanson WE7P

Board Paul Matney W7PFU

Board Doug Schafer AB7DG

Board Red Cranefield WB7EC

Board Phil Pia K7PIA

Quorum? A quorum was present, and 20 members attended in person or via zoom for all or part of the meeting.

Silent Key or Illness? No SKs noted. Several members reported having bad colds lately.

Approval of Minutes of November 2, 2022 RCT BOD Meeting was approved as amended in the Planning for the Future discussion. The sentence "He tasked the BOD to develop a plan for future growth of the club…." Was changed to "He asked…."

Secretary's Report (W7MKE)

Routine correspondence with things like Insurance renewals, magazines, etc. Membership renewals are tapering off and we are still receiving some Salmon Run returns.

Treasurer's Report (AF7YD)

Steve AF7YD submitted a financial report to the Board that is available on the website.

Steve reviewed our insurance re: the burglary of items stolen from the shed. Not all items stolen were listed on our insurance inventory form. However, it was decided to make a claim on all items stolen and if the insurance company rejects the unlisted items, there is nothing we can do but if we don't ask, we will not recover.

Nick K7MO suggested that the valuation on some of the items was too low and does not reflect

replacement costs. He stated that the replacement cost of the 15M and 20M beams and the Rocket Launcher Tower are very much undervalued on our insurance inventory.

Steve reviewed an offer from Microsoft (Benevity): a matching program of donations from Microsoft employees. Steve and Doug AB7DG reviewed the process of getting registered with Benevity and the application seems to be heavily laden with legal stipulations including situations where the funds might need to be returned. Steve and Doug both feel the effort required to create website content and maintain it is not worth the potential return.

Committee / Reports

Membership (W7XH/K7GRS)

Mike W7XH reported that membership is at 302 and he's processed about 150 membership renewals so far worth around $XXXX. He reported on Salmon Run pledges was $XXXX with $XXX returned so far.

Mike is corresponding to those who have not returned pledges and to members who have not renewed. He has created much more extensive reports for both the banquet and for the BARK. Reports Attached.

Library (AD7AV)

George K7GRS reported that he's spent several hours in the last couple of weeks sorting the library shelves and auditing the holdings.

Training (AD7AB)

Mike W7XTZ reported that Steve AD7AB sent out an email indicating that this month's Technician Training was cancelled due to lack of interest.

VE (AC7WW)

The next session is planned for next Tuesday December 13th.

Info Tech and Website (WB4SPB)

Randy WB4SPB reports that the clubhouse systems are nominal. He reported that someone had edited the website homepage and left it locked. He was wondering who that might be. No one knew who might have done it so Randy needs to investigate further to see what's going on.

HF Operations (K7PIA)

Phil K7PIA reports that all the HF stations are working. The Drake amplifier fans are not working.

Check out www.contestcalendar.com for radio sport. This weekend is the 10M contest that Phil will be working from the Club. Straight Key night is December 31st. RTTY Roundup is January 7-8. Check www.NG3K.com for DXpedition information. Bouvet Island is coming up January 23rd for about a month.

The VHF/UHF station is working, and the computer attached has working software enabling the sending of Winlink messages. The 2M coax needs replacement and all the VHF/UHF antennas work except for the 6M

vertical. The 6M beam is working well.

Repeater Ops (N7OMS)

Al N7OMS reported that all repeaters are working, and they got a lot of activity during the repeater roundabout contest, and he encouraged members to check out www.repeaterroundabout.com. Al and Jim K7SSS will be working on the controller in the Lou Room for installing it at the new Bates location.

Facilities Management (W2NCC)

Adam W2NCC reported he got a police report for the equipment stolen. The destroyed lock on the shed was replaced but the hasp needs replacement. There was some discussion about putting an alarm on the shed and on how the shed hinges are installed. The hinges are bolted not screwed. The kitchen ramp was painted with non-skid paint. The battery for the AED needs to be replaced and Adam has contacted the manufacturer and they hope to have new batteries soon. Adam checked the smoke detectors which are 13 years old and this model is no longer made. The detectors work in conjunction with the alarm system so not just any detector will be suitable, and Adam is still looking for suitable replacements.

Property Management (WB7EC)

Red WB7EC indicated that last month we took in $XXX and the list he asked the board to approve for dispersal has a couple of high value items. Red moved to approve the list for disposal and was seconded by

Adam W2NCC. With no further discussion the motion carried without objections. The PMT list is on the W7DK.org website.

Museum (KD7SV)

Dan KD7SV reported the museum is doing well. Tom and Jack Kalina KD7VDI came and picked up the TS520 that Dan worked on and were pleased with Dan's help. Dan experimented with HW 16 and was spotted with a good signal on 40M. He wants to try 20 and 15 also. Apparently, the problem was with the crystal not the

transmitter. Adam W2NCC and Dan are working on Mike W7MKE's AL-811. He purchased upgraded components, and they are working to install them. Dan is also working on the FRG7 from PMT. Pete Marcus has the SW-17 working well but wants to calibrate the dials better.

Dan was also curious about how many might want to participate in Straight Key Night.

Wednesday Workshop (WB4SPB)

Randy WB4SPB reported that the Weds. Workshop is still TBD.

General Meeting- Award Banquet

The Award Banquet is typically the monthly meeting for December so there will not be a meeting on

December 14th. We will have minimal "normal" business at the Award Banquet. Paul W7PFU indicated the food preparation was taken care of: soda, napkins, etcetera are all available in the garage and kitchen and need to be taken to Collins Grange for the Potlach. Dan KD7SV will cook ham and David Ashley K7GEL is cooking turkey. Several others have signed up to bring side dishes and desserts.

There was a lot of discussion about raffle and door prizes of various amounts and various equipment. The old raffle tickets from 2020 were considered outdated. Some 3D printed keys we received as promotional items were considered more appropriate for Straight Key night as it was hoped CW operators would receive them. There was some concern that those attending via Zoom could not participate in raffles or door prizes. The consensus seemed to be if you are not present you don't get to participate in door prizes or raffles. Mike W7MKE moved to give out 6-$25 gift certificates as door prizes at the Banquet. Motion was seconded by Bruce WE7P and there was no discussion offered. Motion passed with one objection.

Unfinished Business

Status of Training Videos on HF Radios (K7PIA)

Phil K7PIA reported he's not yet made a video.

Status of Debit Card for Club

Mike W7MKE indicated he and Steve AF7YD had not yet applied for a club debit card.

New Business

Status of Official Emergency Station. Mike W7XTZ indicated that he was not going to appoint a chairperson for the OES at this time. The group needs some funds for a TNC and software. The 6M vertical needs to be tuned and the 2M beam coax needs to be replaced for everything to be ready for full functionality, but the station is useable for drills now because those nets are on 2M. Steve AF7YD indicated he's scheduled some meetings set up with Stan W7VKK Pierce County EC and also meeting with Ariana of Tacoma CERT to discover how RCT might support or participate in in ARES and CERT.

Activity Reports, Discussion Topics, Announcements

Nothing offered.

Adjournment at: 20:32

Submitted by:

Michael Drorbaugh W7MKE

Secretary

Radio Club of Tacoma
Board of Directors Emergency Meeting
December 10, 2022

Meeting called to order at approximate 10:05am local time by President Mike W7XTZ

Officers and Directors Present

President	Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ
Vice President	Adam Barbera W2NCC
Secretary	Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE
Board	Bruce Hanson WE7P
Board	Doug Schafer AB7DG
Board	Red Cranefield WB7EC
Board	Phil Pia K7PIA

Other Members Present

Gary McAdams WG7X
PJ Hicks N7PH
Mike Isakson W7XH

Quorum? A quorum of Directors was present, and 10 members attended in person for all or part of the meeting.

Purpose and Reason for Emergency Meeting of the Board

President Mike W7XTZ called for an emergency meeting of the board to discuss issues of club security due to the two recent burglaries.

New Business

Discussion of the board was about the status of our alarm system, its adequacy, how it might be enhanced and security improved.

Q: Mike W7XTZ asked: Should there be one person in charge of the security systems, apart from the Facilities Manager?

There was no definite answer, but it seemed that it was not necessary to remove this job from Facilities Manager.

Q: Do we keep this system or get a different one?

The discussion seemed to be that we should fully restore the present system, that is, restore alarm to the garage roll up door and extend the system to the shed by adding a slit trench to hold a wire to add magnetic detectors to the garage. Adam W2NCC has contacted a security specialist who might do an assessment as soon as Monday. After we receive his recommendations, we can decide if other systems, or components are advised.

Q: Mike W7XTZ asked if we should hire a security company to do random drive by inspections? There was no answer to this question as no one knew the cost or efficacy of that approach and no one seemed to want to investigate that option.

Q: Do we need an alarm system logbook? Our alarm has fallen into disuse or neglect, and no one knows fully how to service it or knows what has been done to it. A log for the future is a good way to maintain the system once restored and/or a new system installed.

There were no actual next steps mentioned and Adam W2NCC seems to have some plans to investigate restoring the system with help from Bruce WE7P who apparently has the alarm manual. Some updates or changes to the padlock systems on the shed and garage are contemplated. No definite timetable or actions were stated.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:48 am

Submitted by:

Michael Drorbaugh W7MKE
Secretary

Radio Club of Tacoma General Meeting and Awards Banquet

December 11, 2022

Collins Grange 3404 120th ST E, Tacoma WA / and via Zoom

The banquet and awards program was approximately from 12:00 – 15:00 local.

Officers and Board Members present:

President: Mike Mikuchonis W7XTZ

Secretary: Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE

Treasurer : Steve Dightman AF7YD

Board: Doug Schafer AB7DG

Board: Phil Pia K7PIA

Board: Paul Matney K7PFU (via Zoom)

Board: Bruce Hansen WE7P

Board : Bruce Cranefield WB7EC

Attendance: Thirty attended in person and 3 via Zoom. The Attendance list is attached.

Following the banquet, the monthly meeting and awards began.

Welcome:

President Mike W7XTZ welcomed the members and guests and made opening remarks about the excellent food and about club happenings over the past year. Things at the clubhouse have pretty much returned to normal post-Covid and we have gathered here in part to thank many members for their contributions and service during the past year.

Mike introduced the Club Officers and Board of Directors present. They are listed above, and he thanked them for their service. Mike then introduced ARRL Northwest Division Director Mike Ritz W7VO. Mike Ritz W7VO came to our banquet to present W7DK with a commemorative plaque for having 100 years of association with ARRL. The 100th anniversary happened in 2020 but due to Covid-19 restrictions on gatherings he had to hold the plaque until now before presenting it to the club. Mike talked about W7DK's long tenure as a club. In 1920 when we first associated, wireless radio was only about 10-years old and there were no clubs possible during WWI as all radio transmission by amateurs was banned.

Mike was pleased to recognize our club's long association with ARRL and complimented the club on our longevity and for our healthy size as we have over 300 members.

Mike W7XTZ presented the following Service and Appreciation Awards listed here and without the complete citations:

Oliver Bond AD7CC: outstanding contributions to club welfare.

Adam Barbera W2NCC: VP, Facilities Mgmt, Salmon Run Coordinator.

Deanna Jenks KA7DCX: Tuesday Net Control, Ad Hoc public relations, contester & POTA.

Bruce Hanson WE7P: Board member, mentor, property management team.

Al Ferguson N7OMS: Repeater Chair, Salmon Run QSO, Repairs at club.

Steve Dightman AF7YD: Treasurer, refurbish 20M antenna, EmComm.

Dave Brooks: N7HT: Training, QSL Manager.

Bruce Cranefield WB7EC: PMT Chairperson, M&K organizer, board member.

Warren Angus NG7G: Saturday Host, Contests

Phil Pia K7PIA: HF Chair, board member, contests

Dan Vacanti KD7SV : Museum Curator, club repairs, Sunshine Manager, FD Station manager

Randy Myers WB4SPB: IT, website, W7OS Museum, CW master, FD Setup.

Stephen Morton AD7AB: Training, Elmer.

Gary McAdams WG7X: BARK editor, Elmer, 2 meter net control, FD Assembly team.

Chuck Kemmer AC7QN: W7OS Museum, Repeater, club repairs, FD, Salmon Run Rover, W7OS contributor.

Bob Purdom AD7LJ: HF room work, VHF/UHF tower work.

Jan Gilbertson: K7HTU: Field Day and chef assistant.

Nick Winter K7MO: Tower czar, engineer at large, repeater work

Leonard Burstiner KA7NWF: Field Day Security, clubhouse grounds

David Ashley W7GEL: FD operator, Banquet cook

Doug Schafer AB7DG: Board Member, work parties, bylaws update secretary

Mike Robinson AD7TH: Mentor, Technician trainer

Jim Hatfield K7SSS: Repeater helper & repairs

Doug Oakman AD7AV: 20-year member, maintains library, dedicated Doug DeMaw library

Doc Spike Inspirational Award:

Was awarded this year to Mike Isakson W7XH

Presidents Awards:

Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE: Club Secretary and helper

Paul Matney W7PFU: Club Chef, Board Member, Bylaws Committee

Presidents Call for New Business or Questions for the December Club Meeting:

Nothing offered

Without objections the meeting was Adjourned.

Door prizes were awarded:

Six $25 dollar Visa Cards

Two full sized embroidery patches of RCT logo

This concluded the Banquet and awards.

Submitted by,

Mike Drorbaugh – W7MKE

RCT Secretary

President Mike W7XTZ Gives out much deserved awards to Dan KD7SV, Randy WB4SPB and Phil K7PIA while the rest of us observe and applaud!

Membership

Mike Isakson W7XH, George Salisbury K7GRS

I am thankful to George K7GRS for inviting me to join the membership committee. I knew that it was a very important part of our club's operation. He has been gracious enough to allow me to make changes to some of our files. Which means I ask him to do the coding necessary to make the files appear, run, gather, or parse information. Along the way I have learned much from my mentor. Thankfully he keeps a watchful eye on my progress. I have had a few successes working on file updates on my own and some failures. During the moments of failure, I shout out **"Help! Mister Wizard!"** and George comes to the rescue. It has been a wonderful learning experience.

We kept busy with some major work on the database and data entry this year. We still have several years of prior financial records to log into the database. Perhaps a feature that George and I will present to the club in the coming year.

Membership not only keeps track of membership renewals but also our silent keys, Salmon Run mailings and donations, elections ballot mailings and this year we also mailed proposed 2022 By-laws. We also track all ARRL membership applications, badge and history book purchases. We regularly keep the board and general membership updated with current membership totals.

Honorary members	6	Extras	141
Lifetime members	34	General	84
Senior members	143	Advanced	8
Full members	90	Technician +	1
Associate members	3	Technician	62
Student members	1		
Family members	15		
Family +3 members	1		
Promotional 2022	9		

Our club is currently at 302 members, this year we added 51 new members. Welcome to all of our new members:

Andrew	Hall	KK7CSV	Dallas	Jolley	KG7WET	Brady	Friedrich	AE7GG
John	McMenamin	KJ7ZPD	Kevin	Ebat	W7QKR	Lloyd	Kimball	N0NHJ
William	Knaust	W7NY	Lacy	Jarvis	KK7FLW	Ileana	Sharky	KK7IJZ
William Joe	Castillo	KN6DQB	Paul	Thorpe	KJ7JCB	Jim	Wolff	AH2CG
William	Rollison	WA7WJR	Amy	Do-browolsky	KB9IQX	Nikolas	Geil	KK7IYT
Rod	Kirsch	W7RKZ	Richard	Langsford	N6LA	Andrew	Prisco	KJ7QBK
Robert	Carrey	KK7BXV	Maxton	Mackersie	KK7HAY	Quentin	Caudron	K7DRQ
George	Budd	KK7ELJ	Matthew	Smiley	KK7GZM	Douglas	Schell	KE7YOB
Roy	Prince	KK7ELP	Brett	Taylor	KK7HBJ	Holly	Eggleston	W6HCE
Peter	Roach	KK7ELO	Fletcher	Drew	WA7FPD	Luke	Stamm	KK7IJL
Sarah	Padilla	KK7ELM	Tina	Drew	KG7AWZ	Viridiana	Quiroga	KK7JEI
Eric	Tenborg	KK7EMG	John	Kalina	WA7VDI	Joel	Goff	KJ7SXR
Joshua	Miller	KK7ELC	Madelyn	Mills	KJ7NUW	Alexine	Adonis	KK7IJX
Trent	Leslie	KE8HPF	Emmanuel	Adonis	KC7MSA	Jennifer	Johnson	KK7IJY
Geoffrey	Morris	KK7FLV	Nicolas	Adonis	KK7HMZ	Peter	Markus	KC7YDW
Ryan	Weichert	KK7HTB	Jerin	Tilson	KJ7NIF	Brady	Friedrich	AE7GG
Chris	Barnes	KK7EMA	Hans	Kensler	N1ETT			
Adam	Heinricy	KK7FLZ	B' jaia	Benavari	KG5ZIF			

It has been a pleasure to serve the club. I am ever so happy to have George providing oversight and his talented coding which continues to improve our membership data gathering and processing.

We are also thankful to Randy WB4SPB for all the work he does on the W7DK Radio Club of Tacoma website. Members should be able to find the following resources: Club brochure, Club History (PDF ebook), Club Standing Rules, 2022 Club Bylaws, Membership Application, Salmon Run pledge form, ARRL membership form, Club Badge Order, ARES Digital Training Manual and the “BARK”. Please use and enjoy our club website to access these materials.

Membership Chair: Mike Isakson

Salmon Run 2022

The Salmon Run is the Washington State QSO Party! It is run by Western Washington DX Club W7DX. It is held the third weekend in September and runs both Saturday and Sunday. The objective is to contact all 39 Washington State Counties, all states, all Canadian Provinces, and Territories and to make several DX contacts.

Our club, several years ago began using Salmon Run as our annual fund raiser. Thank you, Al Ferguson! Thanks to those who helped to get the word out; Randy WB4SPB (website), Gary WG7X (The Bark), Deanna KA7DCX (social media, W7DK nets), George K7GRS & Mike W7XH (membership & forms), Paul W7PFU (Food), Bruce WE7P (hospitality) and Adam W2NCC (fearless leader).

This year was amazing! Participation was incredible and the response by our membership unbelievable. Again, massive thanks to all our donors. Our club is so blessed by your support. My challenge to the entire membership, participate! I would love to see twice as many participants next year.

So how did we do in the contest? We collected all 39 counties, all fifty states, 12 of 13 Canadian Provinces and Territories and about 7 DX contacts. Great job operators!

Operators were:

K7MM Dan Ransom	W2NCC Adam Barbera
K7PIA Phil Pia	W7MKE Mike Drorbaugh
KA7DCX Deanna Jenks	W7XH Mike Isakson
KG7ZYB Joe Kubistek	W7XTZ Mike Mikuchonis
KK7HAY Max Mackersie	WB4SPB Randy Myers
N7OMS Alan Ferguson	WG7X Gary McAdams

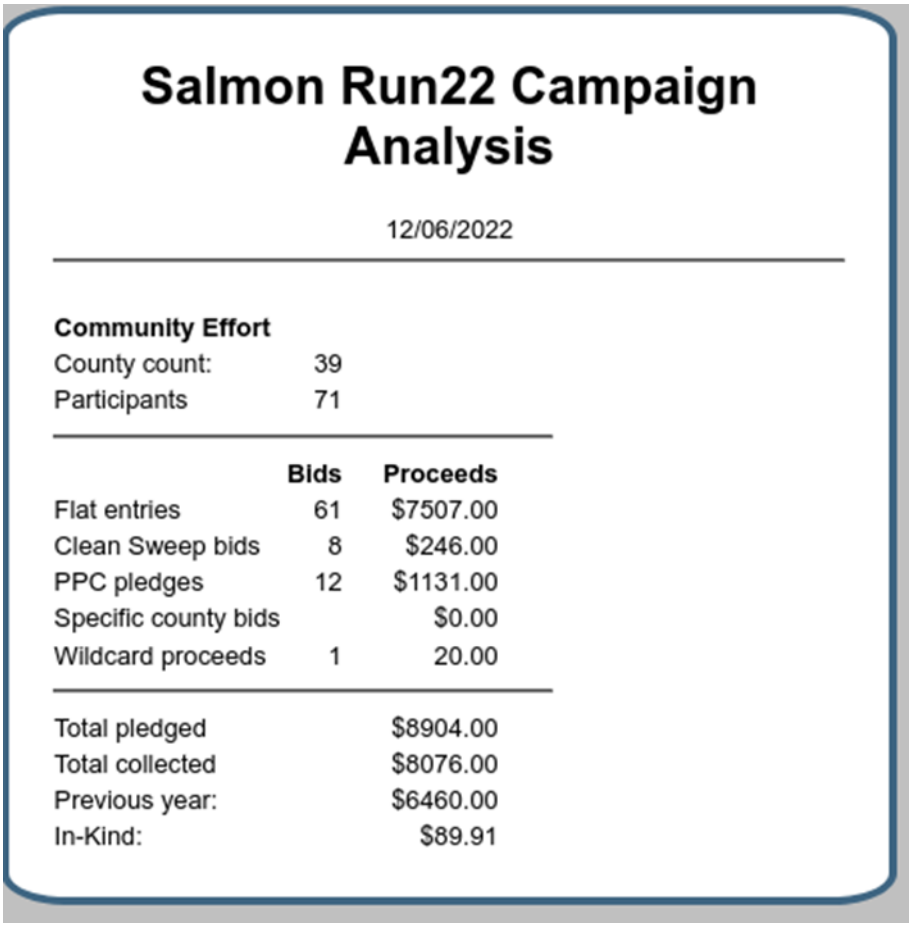
Honorable Mention to our Club Rovers:

AC7QN Chuck Kemmer	KR7W Rich Patrick

We also must give a huge thank you to all of our donors!

Jan Gilbertson	K7HTU	Richard Heasty	KK7VH
Jack Hegseth	K7DBU	Chuck Kemmer	AC7QN
Bob Heselberg	K7MXE	Alan Ferguson	N7OMS
Steve Dightman	AF7YD	John Clarke	AC7WW
Nick Winter	K7MO	James Swanson	WA7JIM
Richard Leary	W7LKG	Oliver Bond	AD7CC
Dave Ellison	W7UUU	Joe Lester	K7ZG
Jeffrey Hanson	W7JFF	Diane Sim	W7SIM
Thomas Smith	N7CFI	Leonard Burstiner	KA7NWF
Ralph Spaulding	NU7G	Robert Bosnyak	AD7WU
Gary McAdams	WG7X	Bruce Hanson	WE7P
Bob Hewlett	N7NCP	Charles Moorhead	AE7PC
Bob Crelling	N7QOZ	Doug Reynolds	K7FDR
Larry Watson	KD4VOM	Fredrick Hannes	KA7WGE
Erick Jenkins	K7APO	Greta Hewlett	KF7KSW
Randy Myers	WB4SPB	Mike Mikuchonis	W7XTZ
Mike Finney	W7MWF	Phil Shideler	KC7PS
Bob Garden	KF7GPO	Aaron Grenlund	KJ7CEZ
Paul Kosal	K7OSS	Doug Schafer	AB7DG
Verna Lilly	KF7SCB	William Stockho	W7SSN
Helen Sue Schub	KF7SOW	David Jerauld	KJ7AKG
Paul Matney	W7PFU	Bryan Anderson	KJ7LEA
Charles Barbe	KF7YEL	David Parks	KJ7MPD
Red Cranefield	WB7EC	Ellen Hardin	AI7FP
Dan Vacanti	KD7SV	John Buonora	KJ7SJM
Anne Ellison	N7ANN	Warren Munro	KH6WM
Mike Isakson	W7XH	James Roach	AI7OZ
Whit Worchester	KG7LNZ	Lal Chandwaney	KJ7YSX
Phil Pia	K7PIA	David Knechtel	WA7RNX
Warren Angus	NG7G	Kevin Cummings	W7HUA
William Hodge	N6TO	Rod Kirsch	W7RKZ
P.J. Hicks	N7PH	Adam Heinricy	KK7FLZ
Joe Kubistek	KG7ZYB	Dallas Jolley	KG7WET
Mike Drorbaugh	W7MKE	Max Mackersie	KK7HAY
Lloyd Brooks	AG7CX	Jack Kalina	WA7VDI
Kerry Harris	KI7LTV	Manny Adonis	KC7MSA0
Christopher Porter	AA7KL		

We had a total of 73 donors this year, 12 operators at the clubhouse and 2 rovers in the field. So here is what all this work amounted to.



Salmon Run22 Campaign Analysis

12/06/2022

Community Effort

County count:	39
Participants	71

	Bids	Proceeds
Flat entries	61	$7507.00
Clean Sweep bids	8	$246.00
PPC pledges	12	$1131.00
Specific county bids		$0.00
Wildcard proceeds	1	20.00
Total pledged		$8904.00
Total collected		$8076.00
Previous year:		$6460.00
In-Kind:		$89.91

We still have some outstanding pledges that have not come in.

All in all a huge THANK YOU to everyone who participated this year!

Mike Isakson

PS: Thanks George for re-writing some of the Salmon Run code!!
These donations will help to defray expenses related to maintaining the club's building, grounds and equipment. (Ed.)

MAILBAG!

VARA License-Group Buy

Radio Club Tacoma is planning a Group Buy of VARA license for $55.00 each. In Pierce County Amaeur Radio Emergency Services, VARA, a computer program, is the preferred digital messaging standard, which is used in conjunction with WINLINK. The license unlocks the higher speed capability for both VARA HF and VARA FM. The low speed version of VARA is available for download today for free so you can get started using and learning about VARA today.
https://rosmodem.wordpress.com/

The single copy license fee is $69.00. Again, the group purchase price is $55.00.

Hams wishing to participate should send their check for $55.00 to Radio Club of Tacoma, PO Box 11188 Tacoma, WA 98411-0188 to arrive by Jan 20,2023. Or hand deliver to RCT by **Jan 21**. Make the check out to **RADIO CLUB of TACOMA**. Mark the envelope with "VARA" and put your call sign and VARA on the check, **Include your phone number and email address.**

Questions to AF7YD; treasurer@w7dk.org

Contest note: From Randy WB4SPB

In 2023, a few changes to Canadian section names and abbreviations will go into effect. These changes affect contests in which a "section" is part of the exchange (e.g. Field Day). For example, the MAR (Maritime) section will be replaced by two new sections, NS (Nova Scotia) and NB (New Brunswick). Complete details are available here (http://va7eca.ca/radio-amateurs-of-canada-making-changes-effective-jan-1-2023).

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Randy

Radio Amateurs of Canada / Radio Amateurs du Canada

...And now for something completely different! Straight Key Night (SKN)

From Randy WB4SPB and Gary WG7X

11 SKN QSOs
8 states worked (WA, OR, BC, CA, ID, MT, CO, AR)
4 operators (Alan N7OMS, Quentin K7DRQ, Randy WB4SPB, Dan KD7SV)

Radios sets:
On 40M, a Heath HW-16 "novice" transceiver (recently restored by Dan KD7SV) and HG-10B VFO
On 80M, a Collins 75A4 and Eldico SSB-100F

During testing in advance of SKN, we thought simultaneous 80M and 40M operation would be possible, but, unfortunately, this turned out not to be the case during the event itself. Conditions were otherwise good, and many SKN participants were heard on the bands.

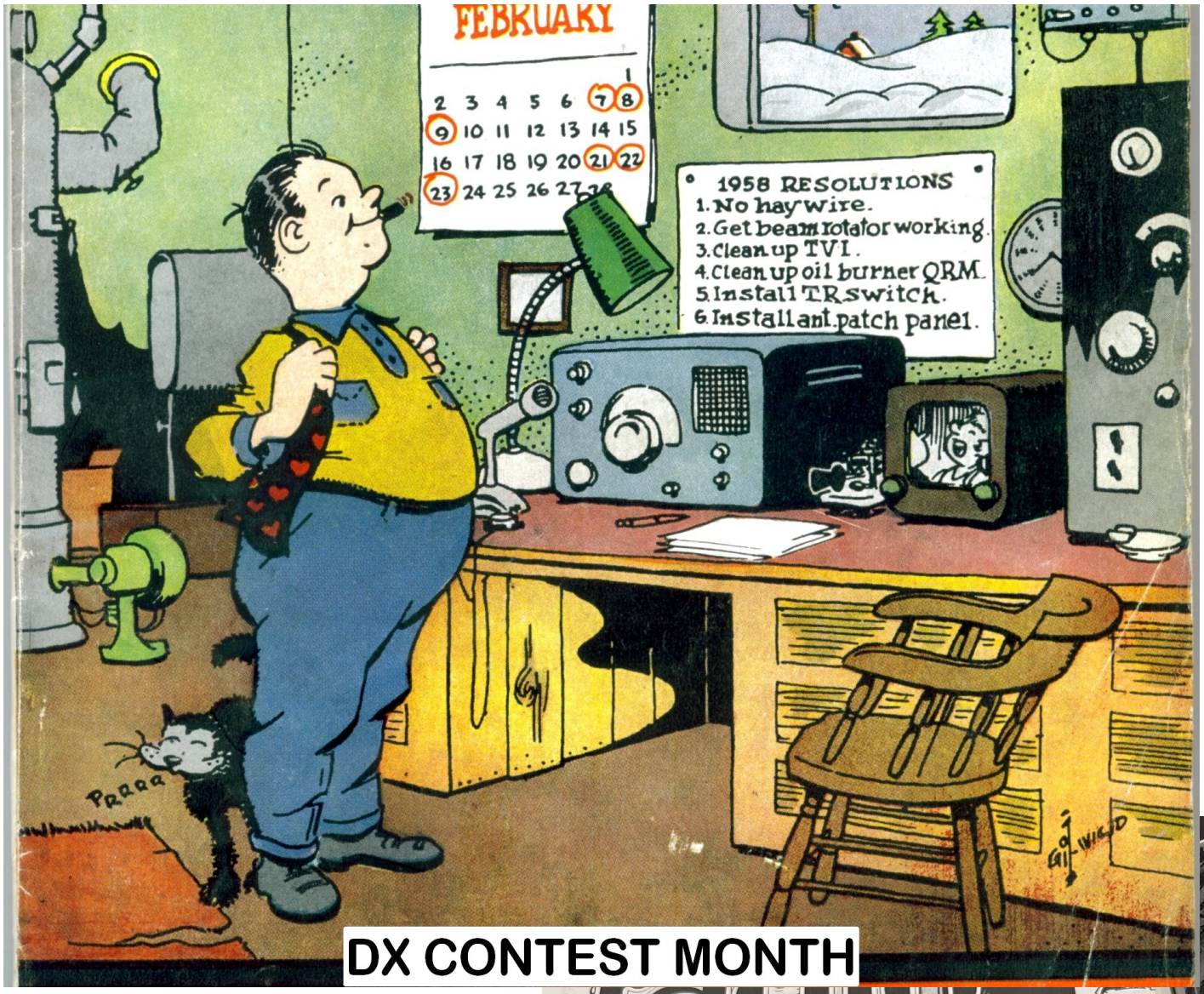
Late in the game, we noticed that the Eldico transmitter seemed tired and was putting out only about half of its usual power, so we let it rest and put the HW-16 on 80M, where it made the last couple of QSOs of the evening. Thanks to Dan for the excellent restoration.

Right, Al N7OMS before SKN. He looks ready to go!

Bottom, Dan KD7SV and Quentin K7DRQ operating that same station later on in the event.

Small collage here: Top left, Quentin K7DRQ operating on 40 meters. Top right. The logs and QSO data direct from the operators. Left, Randy WB4SPB at the 40 meter station.

Bottom left, a birds-eye view of Quentin operating on 80 meters. Bottom right, Phil K7PIA in the modern radio station looking for DX.



DX CONTEST MONTH

Just a bit of fun from Gil Gildersleeve W1CJD. These are the covers from QST top, from February 1958, and bottom right March 1958. We've all been there. The dates and / or contests have changed over the years, but the shacks all look the same, right?

The Mighty DK's!

Monthly QSO Report

Each month in the *Bark* the Radio Club of Tacoma recognizes the members and guests who have made non-contest QSOs using the HF stations at our clubhouse. Saturday Open House, especially, is a time when members have access to this equipment. Why not sit down at one of our operating desks and make a contact or two? Assistance is almost always available for those unfamiliar with the equipment, and if your license class doesn't permit HF operation, ask the denizens of the HF Room or the Saturday clubhouse host to help you find a suitably-licensed control operator to sit with you.

It's a feather in the club's hat for the call sign of **The Mighty DK** to be heard on the airwaves. So get on the air and get your name in the *Bark*! (Don't forget to enter your call sign as the operator into our logging program.)

QSOs November 26 through December 31, 2022:

- Mike W7MKE: 9
- Mike W7XH: 54

Non-contest QSOs during all of 2022:

- **Mike W7MKE: 593** (The champ! How did he find the time?)
- John W7CBC: 170
- Andy KE7RTB: 92
- Paul K7OSS: 91
- Mike W7XH: 56
- Unknown OP: 30
- David W7GEL: 28
- BJ WA7WJR: 15
- Phil K7PIA: 11
- Wade W7ITL: 11
- Randy WB4SPB: 9
- Gary WG7X: 5
- Alan N7OMS: 5
- Max KK7HAY: 4
- Nick K7MO: 1

What was old is now new again!

Once upon a time, the Radio club of Tacoma had a list of people who would act as mentors to new hams or just hams who wanted to ask questions about almost anything.

In ham radio lingo, these types of folks were called “Elmers” from old articles printed, probably in QST, about fellows that would help new hams with questions pertaining to ham radio. The actual origin of the term is kind of lost in the mists of time, but RCT has had this list of mentors for many years. It went away for “reasons” and is now making a return to the club and the Loggers Bark.

This list is preliminary and will be edited or added to as time goes on.

In the list below, you will se members listed with numbers after their names. The numbers correspond to the subject list on the left. So just look at the numbered subject list on the left and see who has those subject(s) as one of their topics. Phone numbers are listed for your use.

Please ignore the background, your editor is still messing around with this stuff!

Elmer Board

Do you need help with some area in ham radio? Here is a place..... First is the listing of areas of support, followed by a list of members' areas of interest.	Name/Call Sign /Phone Number/ Help with topic
1.Technical questions, Classes	Adam W2NCC 360-870-7894 (4,5,6,7,11)
2. Help with Code	Al N7OMS 253-495-9068 (10,12)
3. License Examinations	Dave N7HT 253-363-1692 (1,2,4,6,8)
4. Antenna and Station planning	Dave W7UUU 360-443-6981 (2,4,6,9)
5. Antenna and Tower erection	Gary WG7X 253-327-0503 (1,4,5,6,8,9,10,11,12
6. Buying new or used equipment	Mike W7XTZ 253-405-8095 (6,8,10)
7. Equipment repair	Phil K7PIA 253-307-4781 (9,10,12)
8. Understanding and operating your equipment	Randy WB4SPB 253-761-9391 (2)
9. DX and Contests	Stephen AD7AB 253-212-9437 (1,3,4,12)
10. Club and ARRL activities	Steve AF7YD 253-988-0878
11. Using test equipment	
12. IRLP , Digital, SDR, ARPS, Winlink,Vara, Satellite	

The Club LINEUP

Club Officers

President: Mike Mikuchonis –W7XTZ w7xtz©w7dk.org

Vice Pres: Adam Barbera, W2NCC - w2ncc©w7dk.org

Secretary: Mike Drorbaugh W7MKE - w7mke@w7dk.org

Treasurer: Steve Dightman, AF7YD - af7yd©w7dk.org

5 Board Members

Bruce Hanson, WE7P - we7p©w7dk.org

Paul Matney, W7PFU - w7pfu©w7dk.org

Doug Schaeffer AB7DG©w7dk.org

Red Cranefield, WB7EC - wb7ec©w7dk.org

Phil Pia, K7PIA - k7pia©w7dk.org

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Membership Info: FULL (licensed) and ASSOCIATE (non licensed) membership is $35 per calendar year or $30 for Licensed Seniors (65 and over). Licensed family members at same address pay $20 each for the first two and are free for the third, fourth, and so on. Full-time students, licensed or non licensed, up to age 25 are $20 per year. Note: fees are applicable for the calendar year: Jan to Dec. Lifetime membership is 20 times the yearly fee you are eligible for. Lifetime memberships are calculated based on the FULL and ASSOCIATE rates.

www.w7dk.org [LINK] - For the latest and most current information on events and activities, visit the Radio Club of Tacoma Website.

Radio Club Repeaters

Central Tacoma: 147.280 + PL=103.5

Crawford Mountain 147.380 + PL=103.5 (E of Olympia © 1500 ft ASL)

Central Tacoma: 440.625 + PL=103.5

North Tacoma: 145.21 – PL=141.3